

1. Were you working in the Labor parliamentary party's campaign team during the 2023 election campaign? Who was your role? Who did you report to?

As previously advised, I was not involved in the LSCA process prior to the election. I am currently employed in accordance with the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*.

2. In your evidence you stated that you could not recall if the list of small commitments provided by the Premier's Department to the LSCA program office had first been handed to you in paper form or had been received by email, or who that information had come from. Are you able to tell us any of that information now?

Please refer to my testimony on Page 20 of the uncorrected transcript.

- a) After having checked all records you reasonably have access to, please tell the Committee who prepared the list and who provided it to you.

Please refer to my testimony on Page 19 of the uncorrected transcript.

- b) Did you create the list yourself, based on work you had performed prior to the election?

I refer to my previous answer.

- c) How many versions of the list were you provided with? How many versions of the list were created prior to a version being provided to the LSCA program office?

I refer to my previous answer.

In relation to the creation and sharing of the list, how have you satisfied yourself that you are not in breach of the State Records Act in relation to your responsibilities to protect and make available records made or received by a person in the course of exercising official functions in a public office? Please explain how you have complied with the State Records Act in relation to your handling of the list and your evidence to the Committee.

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the State Records Act 1998. The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices. I comply with my obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

4. The Hon John Graham explained to the Committee in his evidence to the Committee on 28 March 2025 that the shadow ERC had been involved in the approval of pre-election commitments under the LSCA program. Were you involved in that ERC process? Was the final list approved by the shadow ERC? Were changes made after the final version approved by the shadow ERC prior to the list being provided to the LSCA program office?

I was not involved in any such pre-election process.

5. In your evidence you said "the election commitment was \$400,000 per seat for community organisations, NGOs, and parks and playgrounds".

- a) Who made this election commitment?

Please refer to the election costing request form:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/pbo/Documents/2023OppositionCostingsandRequests/C1612%20-%20Costing%20Request%20-%20Local%20small%20commitments%20allocation.pdf>

b) When was this election commitment made?

I refer to my previous answer.

c) When and how was this election commitment shared with Labor candidates?

I was not involved in the pre-election process.

d) When and how was this election commitment announced to the public?

I refer to my previous answer.

6. You state the list of election commitments “would have come from the campaign”. Explain this comment.

As I stated in my testimony on page 19 of the uncorrected transcript, “it was the list that I was advised was the election commitments prior to the election.”

(a) Which person gave you the list?

Please refer to my testimony on Page 19 of the uncorrected transcript.

(b) Who would be the best person for the committee to speak to from the 2023 Labor campaign to work out who compiled the election commitments list?

I was not involved in the pre-election process.

7. Who invented, or first ideated, the program now known as the ‘Local Small Commitments Allocation’?

I was not involved in the pre-election process.

8. Were you aware of any conflict of interest declarations regarding the scheme that had been made prior to election day?

I was not involved in the pre-election process.

9. If you were ever unsure about a detail or issue regarding the scheme, excluding grant recipient contact details, who would you speak to about it?

I refer to my testimony at page 21 of the uncorrected transcript.

10. Given you have clarified in evidence that you did not speak with “every candidate” to confirm their list of nominated projects, why were you confident to proceed with spending \$40 million in taxpayer funds?

I refer to page 19 of the uncorrected transcript.

(a) What gave you confidence that the list was factually correct?

I refer to my previous answer.

(b) Can you confirm that you never spoke to anybody other than the Labor candidates themselves regarding the details of any nominated projects? i. If not, who else did you speak to?

Please refer to my testimony at page 24 of the uncorrected transcript.

11. You stated you “don’t remember” if you received an electronic version of the list. Could you please review your records and confirm whether or not you received an electronic version of the list?

I refer to my evidence at page 20 of the uncorrected transcript.

12. Do you still have the original hard copy of the list?

(a) If so, could you please provide it for the benefit of the committee?

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the State Records Act 1998. The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.

I comply with my obligations under the *State Records Act 1998*

13. Were you involved in the decision to order a conflict-of-interest review concerning the LSCA scheme for only 17 electorates?

This question should be directed to the Special Minister of State.

a) Did anyone ever raise with you the idea of completing a review for all 93 electorates?

This question should be directed to the Special Minister of State.

(b) (If so) Why was the review constrained to only 17 electorates?

This question should be directed to the Special Minister of State.

14. Why weren’t all candidates required to complete a conflict of interest declaration?

This question should be directed to the Special Minister of State.

15. Can you please confirm whether the Premier’s office and the Member for Sydney had a discussion about re-allocating funding regarding the Sydney electorate projects following the March 2023 election?

Please refer to my testimony at page 23 of the uncorrected transcript.

16. How did you add contact details and additional projects to the list if you only ever had a hard copy?

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the State Records Act 1998. The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.

I comply with my obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

17. On what basis were the amounts for each project for the Sydney electorate entered on the master list and annotated as approval notified to Paul Mills on 26/07/2023?

Please refer to my evidence at pages 21-22 of the uncorrected transcript.

18. On what basis did the Premier's Office advise the LSCA Program Office on 01/02/2024 to "correct the masterlist" to vary the amounts allocated to six of the projects for the Sydney electorate?

(a) Who first suggested that the amounts allocated to projects on the masterlist should be varied?

(b) Was the Labor candidate for Sydney, Skye Tito, consulted about these changes?

i. If so, when was she consulted?

ii. Was this documented? If not, why not?

iii. If so, please provide the documentation.

(c) Was the Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, consulted about these changes?

i. If so, when was he consulted?

ii. Was this documented? 1. If not, why not? 2. If so, please provide the documentation.

Please refer to my testimony at page 22 of the uncorrected transcript:

19. Who proposed to make payments from the Premier's Discretionary Fund of \$25,000 to St Canice's Kitchen (June 2024); of \$30,000 to St John's Community Services (April 2024); and two payments of \$50,000 to Wayside Chapel (April 2024)?

(a) Were any of these payments made to offset the reduction in funding originally offered to these organisations under the Local Small Commitments Allocation?

(b) What explanation was given to these organisations for the change in funding source from the LSCA program to the Premier's Discretionary Fund?

Recipients for the Premier's Discretionary Fund are selected by ministerial discretion to meet the program objectives.

This program is administered by Premier's Department.

20. Apart from reallocation of unallocated or unexpended funds to parks and playgrounds, were any other changes to the amounts listed for projects on the 28 July 2023 masterlist initiated by the Premier's Office, apart from the changes to project funding made to six projects in the Sydney electorate?

(a) If so, please list those changes.

Please refer to the statements on Page 21 of the uncorrected transcript provided by myself.

21. In relation to receiving a copy of the Local Small Commitment Allocation election commitments, in which you stated in evidence, "I would have received it not long after

starting in the Premier's office in April 2023", did you receive this information by email and/or soft copy?

I refer to my evidence at page 20 of the uncorrected transcript.

22. In relation to your evidence where you stated "My job was to then contact the candidates and get the contact details", how many former candidates/MPs did you speak to?

Please refer to my evidence at page 24 of the uncorrected transcript.

(a) Did any former candidates/MPs raise any conflict(s) of interest matters with you?

i. If yes, who?

This question should be directed to the Special Minister of State.

23. In relation to preparing to appear in front of this inquiry, did you directly speak to and/or contact the Premier?

(a) If yes, what did you discuss and/or communicate?

No.

24. In relation to your evidence where you stated, "No election commitments were changed", is this accurate for the electorate of Sydney?

An election commitment was made that \$400,000 will go to every electorate in NSW regardless of political allegiance; whether or not a Labor candidate won the seat. The commitment was for projects that cover a broad range of capital works, services and programs, events, supplies and equipment and charitable donations projects.

25. In relation to Sydney election commitments for the LSCA, were these election commitments made by Labor candidate Skye Tito?

I was not involved in the pre-election process.

26. How many full-time equivalents (FTE) are in the "Caucus Liaison Unit" as at 4 April 2025?

All staff are employed to assist ministers in accordance with the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*.

I am advised that the number of staff employed in each Ministerial Office is routinely published on the Premier's Department website.

27. Does the "Caucus Liaison Unit" include members paid for by the Deputy Premier's Office?

All staff are employed to assist ministers in accordance with the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*.

28. Does the "Caucus Liaison Unit" assist all Members of Parliament, or solely the Labor caucus?

All staff are employed to assist ministers in accordance with the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*.

Please refer to my evidence at page 19 of the uncorrected transcript.

29. In relation to your evidence, where you state “I would have assisted the Premier in the collection of commitments, obviously, for Kogarah and giving him recommendations”, did you contact Asian Women at Work?

(a) Did Asian Women at Work undertake campaign activities for Mr Minns?

Please refer to the Premier’s evidence at page 15 of the transcript of the Budget Estimates hearing on 26 February 2025.

30. What was your job title when you worked in Opposition for Mr Minns prior to 28 March 2023?

As previously advised, I was not involved in the LSCA process prior to the election.

31. Prior to 28 March 2023, was your job paid for by the Parliament of NSW?

(a) If not, who paid for your role?

As previously advised, I was not involved in the LSCA process prior to the election. I am currently employed in accordance with the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*.

32. Have you spoken and/or been in contact about the Local Small Commitment Allocation to Riverstone Electorate Officer Sue Lawrence?

(a) If so, what information did you exchange?

Not to the best of my recollection.

33. Are you happy to affirm to this committee that you have no reservations whatsoever as to the integrity of the scheme you were asked to help administer

Please refer to my evidence at page 19 of the uncorrected transcript.